

San Diego River Watershed - Hydrologic Unit 907

Stretching approximately 45 miles from Dog Beach to Julian and home to Mission Valley, Mission Trails Regional Park, 5 major drinking water reservoirs, the Qualcomm Stadium, SDSU and the RWQCB office.

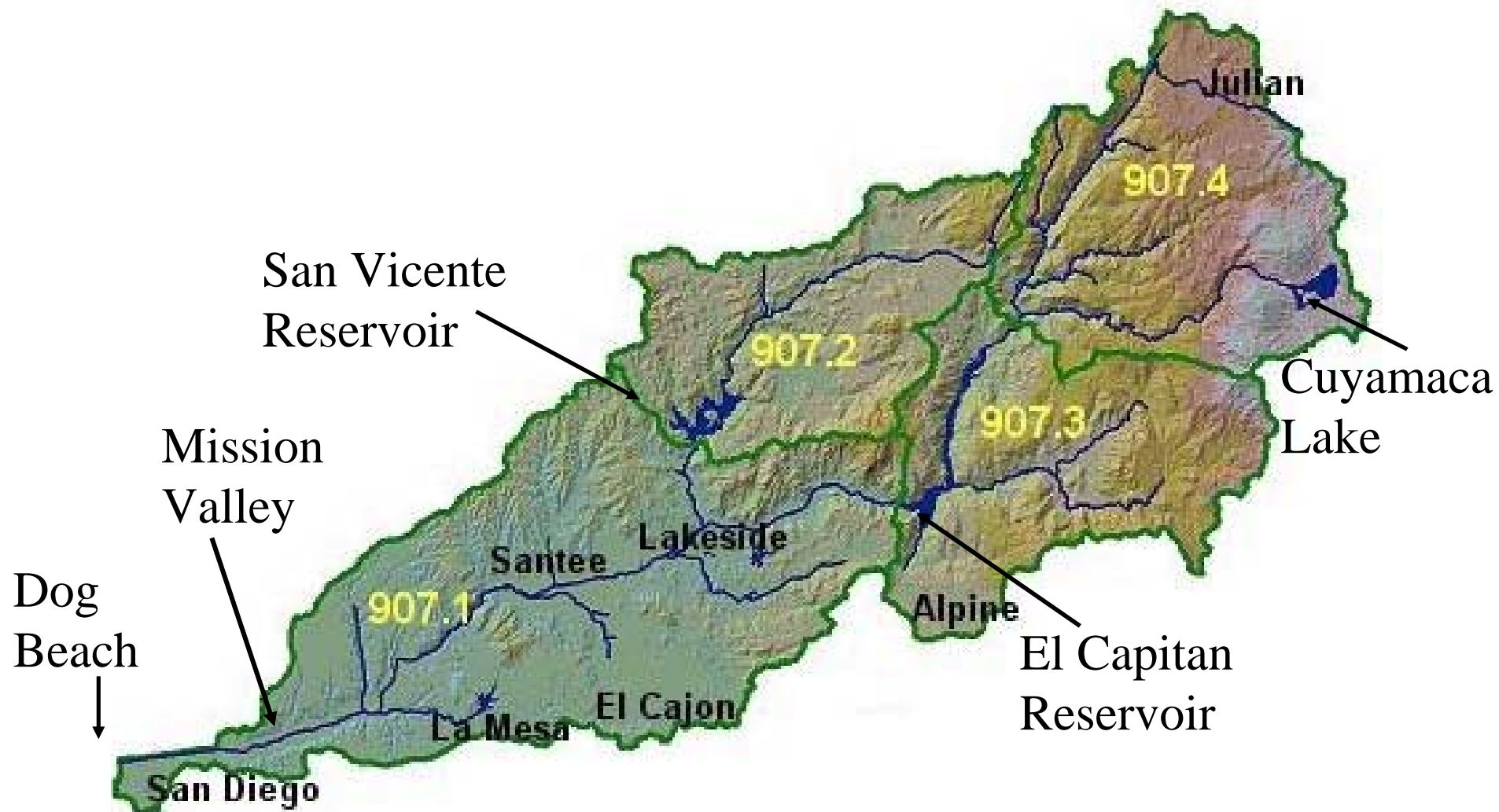


Image: courtesy SDSU Geography Dept.

San Diego River in Mission Valley

This view is looking east-northeast up the axis of Mission Valley.

Before European occupation, the River used to braid and meander from hillside to hillside.

San Diego
River



Fig. 2-2

San Diego River in Mission Valley (image shows Avenida del Rio culverted crossing). There are 6 culverted crossings in Mission Valley. Culverted crossing, as compared to spans or bridges with pilings, are very destructive to water quality, beneficial uses and habitats. Culverts accelerate the water, causing erosion and incision, narrow the river channel width, and eliminate the vegetation that provides pollution assimilation functions and habitat.



Fig. 3-1

Mouth of the San Diego River - aka Dog Beach

Through a minor enforcement in 2001-2002, the RWQCB required the City of San Diego to address the sources of bacterial indicator impairments to this 303(d) listed waterbody. The City cleaned up Dog Beach, enforced existing laws for dog feces removal by owners, and the bacterial indicator levels dropped to REC-1 objectives.



Fig. 3-3

Superior Ready Mix, Mission Gorge Quarry

In February 2002, it was discovered by San Diego City Waste Water that the quarry had discharged rock to the River, causing the River to change course and threaten the integrity of the main sewer trunk line that carries 20,000,000+ gallons of raw sewage per day.



Fig. 3-4

Superior Ready Mix, Mission Gorge Quarry

Rock and soil may have been discharged to the River as early as 1999, but was not discovered by the City till 2002. Note the leaning trees from the recent rock discharge.



Fig. 3-5

Superior Ready Mix, Mission Gorge Quarry

Feb. 24, 2002. The discharged rock forced the river into a new channel and to flow around and over Manhole riser #74 and two others. If any of these risers had been sheared off by the force of the river, the trunk line would have ruptured, causing a release of at least 20,000,000+ gallons per day of raw sewage. Later that afternoon, the City performed emergency actions and re-routed the river around the risers.



Fig. 3-6

Forester Creek Flood Control Project

Tributary to the San Diego River, Forester Creek drains from El Cajon to Santee. In El Cajon, its reaches are completely channelized and lined with concrete. In Santee, most (90%) of the Creek is unlined and provides pollution assimilation functions, beneficial uses and habitat. The City has proposed an improvement project that will provide a fully restored creek with full flood control protection for the neighborhoods and businesses.



Fig. 3-2